

Highlights of Rwanda CGIAR Site Integration Meeting

Rwanda CGIAR Site Integration Meeting was organized on Tuesday 5th April, 2016 at Grand Legacy Hotel in Kigali. The meeting had as objectives;

- To achieve a common understanding of current and evolving development changes in Rwanda and related national priorities for addressing these where Agriculture Research-for- Development can play a key role.
- To identify opportunities to align CGIAR current and future AR4D activities with the activities of all other key actors and the national priorities, ensuring the relevance of research to achieving development outcomes.
- To commend modalities for greater country collaboration and coordination

In attendance were representatives of stake holder categories and include government, NGOs/civil society organizations, research, private sector, UN system, donors, and actors involved in agriculture sector. The meeting was officially launched by the Honorable minister of state in charge of Agriculture followed by a presentation from CG centers.

Humid tropic program by the CG centers and UNDAP (UN project) by FAO were presented as examples of successful collaborations.

Participants were then set up in four main stakeholder categories (Government, NGOs/ Civil society, Research and donors) and the assignment was to identify priority areas of collaboration, main challenges and main opportunities as presented below:

Stakeholder categories	Need:	Challenges	Opportunities	Q/A
<u>NGO/CSO:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate smart agriculture • Seed multiplication and environmental protection in cassava and banana systems • Capacity development in agribusiness • Awareness and capacity building on nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender integration in agricultural value chains • Duplication of interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having CG-centres in Rwanda • Government support • Human resources are available • Agriculture largest sector in the country's economy 	<p>Q: What is quality climate change data?</p> <p>A: Rainfall data, variety</p>
<u>Research</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizer recommendations • Pest and diseases • Seed systems • Variety for high altitude areas (climbing beans + maize) • Potato seed systems • Post-harvest handling and storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate services appropriate to farmers • Limited communication among actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and collaboration among partners • No clear rules of engagement (e.g. data sharing) • High turn-over of staff • Alignment of agendas among actors 	
<u>Donor community</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen information sharing • Portal to disseminate research findings • Policy analysis (IFPRI) • UN-CGIAR collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited coordination and collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will to partner, share and collaborate • CG-participation in agricultural sector working group (platform) 	<p>Remark: IFPRI is not the only CGIAR institute that is performing policy research</p> <p>Q: How to organise collaboration?</p> <p>A: Having platforms for communication</p>
<u>Government:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of improved varieties • Strengthening of seed systems • Socio-economic research on farming systems diversity in relation to agricultural innovation • To strengthen research in post-harvest, processing • Market development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncoordinated approach • Poor private sector collaboration • Insufficient funding for programs • Dissemination of research findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create synergies create 	<p>Q: Why is collaboration with private sector problematic?</p> <p>A: Costs of the inputs (accessibility of inputs for farmers)</p> <p>Q: How do you think that CGIAR centres could support agricultural education?</p> <p>A: School feeding program?</p>

Participants were later randomly set up into 3 different groups to identify way forward for successful collaboration, main priority areas, concrete steps needed to move to successful collaborative model and indicators for success;

Working groups	Way forward for successful collaboration	Main priority areas	What are concrete steps needed to move to successful collaborative model	Indicators for success
<u>Group 1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common interest (e.g. seed systems) and vision • A platform where people can express their research findings • Distribution of responsibilities • Tap into existing platforms (research of the agricultural subsector working group) • Be realistic about what are the incentives for organizations and individuals to invest in collaboration • Alignment with policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Stakeholder analysis around specific themes • System productivity: productivity, nutrition and markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural sector working group • Reflect critically on ongoing models (e.g. Humidtropics R4D: what worked and what did not worked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good M&E systems (documentation and learning)
<u>Group 2</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to information • Capacity development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and data sharing • Seed systems • Engagement of stakeholders in value chain • Better coordination in research agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and identifying existing platforms • What are the gaps • Need where to put repository • Coordinate research agenda to get common voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of research protocol • Similar communication same template • Number of partners involved • Number of people that are using technologies
<u>Group 3</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come together as one • Enforce the innovation platforms • Need communication material that is easy to understand by non-researchers/scientists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop capacity of innovation system (human and physical capacities) • Seed supply systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots rules of engagement • Ensure that engagement through platforms are effective through coordination • Involve different partners in the actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New alliances • Set very clear indicators and ensure full participation for everyone.

In conclusion, the following priority areas and way forward was agreed upon by the participants:

Way forward for successful collaboration

- Common interest and vision
- Access to information
- Capacity development
- Need communication material that is easy to understand by non- researchers/scientists

Main priority areas

- Communication and data sharing
- Seed systems
- Market and value chain
- Climate information that can be used by farmers
- Pests and diseases
- Post harvest handling and storage
- Site specific fertilizer recommendation

What are concrete steps needed to move to successful collaborative model

- Mapping and identifying existing platforms
- Need where to put repository
- Reflect critically on ongoing models (e.g. Humidtropics R4D: what worked and what did not work)
- Coordinate research agenda to get common voice

Indicators for success

- Good M&E systems (documentation and learning)
- Harmonization of research protocol

